

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-11, 13-25, 36-39, and 41 are pending. Claims 3, 7, 10, 18, and 20-22 have been amended, claims 1, 12, 26-35, and 40 have been canceled, and new claim 41 has been added to provide an additional measure of protection for the invention. The specification has been revised to overcome the rejections thereto.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 2, 4-6, 11, 13-17, 23-25, and 36 have been allowed and claim 40 has been indicated to be allowable. In this paper, the subject matter added by amendment to claim 1 in Applicant's previous response has been included in new claim 41, which depends from allowed claim 2. Claims 3 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 41, and claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 2. It is respectfully requested that these amendments are sufficient to place claims 1, 3, 7-10, and all other claims depending from claim 2 into condition for allowance.

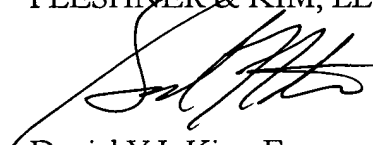
In addition to these changes, claim 18 has been amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 40, now canceled from the application. Claims 20-22 were amended to be consistent with the features added by amendment to claim 18. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are sufficient to place claim 18 and its dependent claims into condition for allowance.

**Serial No. 09/672,782**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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